Romeo & Juliet Web Quest English 9

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**About Shakespeare**  
Click on [this link](http://shakespeare.palomar.edu/timeline/timeline.htm) and answer the following questions (1-7).

1. Click on the link to Birth 1564 & Early Years. William Shakespeare was born in what year?

* **Shakespeare was born in 1564.**

1. What date do we recognize as his birthday?

* **April 23, 1564 is the date recognized as Shakespeare’s birthday.**

1. What was important about Stratford-upon-Avon in the 16th century?

* **Stratford-upon-Avon was an important agricultural center and market town.**

1. Click on the link for 1594 and find the acting companies Shakespeare was associated with in the early days. Name one.

* **An acting company Shakespeare was associated with was The Queen’s Men.**

1. Click on 1599 The Great Globe. What is the probable year that Romeo and Juliet was written?

* **Romeo and Juliet was probably written in 1595.**

1. Scroll down to the section "Construction of the Globe," and answer these questions:
   1. Where did the timbers to build the Globe come from?

* **The timbers to build the Globe came from across the Thames River.**
  1. Who was the carpenter who built the Globe?
* **The carpenter who built the Globe was Peter Smith.**
  1. What was Shakespeare's share as "householder?"
* **Shakespeare received 10% of the total profits.**

1. What day and year did Shakespeare die? Why is this an *interesting* date? How old was Shakespeare when he died?

* **Shakespeare died on April 23, 1616. His birthday and death were both on April 23. He was 52 years old.**

**About Marriage**  
Click on [this link](http://elizabethan.org/compendium/9.html) and answer the next questions (8-10).

1. Romeo & Juliet marry secretly, but because she is trying to escape the arranged marriage to Paris. Read this site about marriage in Elizabethan England and answer these questions.
   1. What does betrothal mean?

* **A betrothal is the start of a marriage where the two people join hands. The woman wears a ring on her right hand then switches it to her left once they are married.**
  1. Name three marriage and betrothal customs found on this page.
* **It is “lucky” to have the wedding before noon. Betrothals can be broken off by mutual consent. The contract is sealed with a kiss.**

1. Click on the link for "more wedding customs."
   1. What color should the bride's dress be?

* **The bride does not have to have a white dress, it can be any fashionable or current color.**
  1. How is the intention to marry announced? What happens if it is not announced previous to the event?
* **The intention to marry is announced three consecutive Sundays or holy days in the same parish. If it is not announced before the event, it is considered illegal and clandestine.**
  1. Describe the wedding procession.
* **The bridesmaids help the bride prepare. Then the bridesmaids, bride, groom, families, and guests proceed from the house to the church. The procession is noisy. If the groom isn’t part of the procession, he meets the bride at the altar or side door of the church. Everyone enters the church at once and stands through the ritual, which is conducted by a minister.** 
  1. What is a dowry?
* **A dowry is the amount of money, goods, and property that the bride brings into the marriage.**

1. Explain how important is a wedding ring to the Elizabethans?

* **A wedding ring was about as important to the Elizabethans as it is today. The ritual of putting the ring on the left hand’s third finger started during this era.**

**About Food**  
Click on [this link](http://elizabethan.org/compendium/46.html) and continue (11-13).

1. How many meals do people generally eat each day?

* **People generally eat two meals a day.**

1. Click [here](http://elizabethan.org/compendium/38.html). Why would people in Shakespeare's day not know what a chocolate chip cookie is?

* **The people from Shakespeare’s time would not know what a chocolate chip cookie is because the Swiss had not yet added milk and sugar to it**

1. Lord Capulet throws a huge party, feast and all. Imagine you are in charge of that menu. Luckily for you, today you only have to plan a menu for a small dinner party. Be sure to use only [food available in Europe](http://elizabethan.org/compendium/47.html) during this time. Choose at least two vegetables, two meats, and two fruits or nuts.

* **The meal will start off with an appetizer of fig pudding and thin slices of pork. The main course will be chicken pot pie including peas and carrots. Dessert will be an apple tart.**

**About Language**  
Click on [this link](http://elizabethan.org/compendium/20.html) and continue (14-16).

1. A famous line from Romeo and Juliet is when Juliet says, "Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?" What does "wherefore" mean?

* **Wherefore means why.**

1. What does "stay" mean?

* **Stay means to wait.**

1. [Click here](http://elizabethan.org/compendium/29.html) to get the information you need to translate this conversation. Put your translation in column two. Keep the phrases just about the same, but use Elizabethan words where you can. So, in other words, you rewrite the entire phrase but replace as many words as you can using Elizabethan English.

|| **Person A** || Hello. (A sneezes) Excuse me. || || **Good day. (sneeze) Pray pardon.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Person B** | Gesundheit! **God save you!** |  |
| **A** | Thank you. **I thank thee.** |  |
| **B** | Say, do you know where the closest bathroom is? | **Say, do you know where the closest privy is?** |
| **A** | Certainly. It's down the street in the Kings Tavern. **Certes! It’s down the street in the Kings Tavern.** |  |
| **B** | Thanks. Goodbye. **Gramercy**. **Good day.** |  |

**About Theatre in Shakespeare's Time**  
"[Actors, Acting, & Audience](http://www.uni-koeln.de/phil-fak/englisch/shakespeare/)" is the link for the next questions (16-19).

1. How many women actors did the company usually feature?

* **The company had no women.**

1. Was Shakespeare an actor? What was the term used to refer to actors?

* **Yes, he was an actor. They were referred to as “players”.**

1. How were the seating arrangements for the audience? How did one get a good seat?

* **The audience was close-packed and there were no reserved seats. All seating was first come, first served.**

1. What would the audience do if they did not like a performance?

* **If the audience did not like a performance, they would throw oranges or anything else at him and scream.**

**Shakespearean Insults**

1. Go to the [Shakespearean Insult Kit](http://www.mit.edu:8001/people/dryfoo/Funny-pages/shakespeare-insult-kit.html) and create your own insult. How you do it is to start with the word "Thou." Next, take a phrase/word from the first column to begin your insult, continue by adding something from the second column, and finish it up royally with something from the third column. Type your own personal Shakespearean insult in the table below. [Thou + choice from column 1 + choice from column 2 + choice from column 3 = your custom made insult].

* **Thou fobbing elf-skinned scut.**